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9 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT: Rectification Equipment

1. This is in response to your verbal request for my opinion reference procurement of rectification equipment. After reviewing the attached requirement, I am unable to fully appreciate the need, as concerns this project, for rectification of 70mm photography or negatives produced by the longer focal-length cameras (i.e., 24", 36", 180-240").

a. 70mm Photography: This camera was designed to cover the widest possible area, across line-of-flight, for the purpose of orienting photography of larger scale but smaller coverage. Inherent design characteristics produce photography of extremely small scale and extreme distortion, and I am of the opinion that restitution would be impracticable.

b. Longer Focal Length Cameras: Primarily, this equipment will be utilized for intelligence gathering purposes and, in most instances, rectification would produce little if any more intelligence than that already possible. While it is true that restituted photography would permit preparation of certain target materials, this requirement should be extremely limited, particularly in AUTOMAT.

Restitution of long focal length photography is a complicated and time-consuming operation, requiring a large number of highly-trained technicians to perform even limited restitution of negatives. On such a selective and limited basis, it is possible to perform a mechanical transportation of data, not involving the use of optical restitutional systems, which produces results which normally satisfy restitution requirements for targeting studies. A system of templates and scales can be devised for the various focal lengths, formats, off-angles and altitudes which would facilitate an operation of this type. In my opinion, such a system should suffice for Project requirements on all but calibrated 6" focal length photography, for which rectification equipment is already in existence.

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2. To summarize, it is entirely possible to either procure existing items or develop equipment to rectify photography produced by all camera systems utilized on this Project. However, unless urgent requirement exists (of which I am unaware) for restitution of long-focal length photography (and unless such a requirement cannot be satisfied by restituted 6" photography) I believe, the procurement of equipment for this purpose is an unnecessary expenditure of funds and scarce highly technical developmental resources.

3. The proposal for a new-design stereoscope and related equipment for use by Project photo interpreters appears entirely sound and should facilitate preparation of photo intelligence studies and reports, especially when using larger size prints (9x18"). While design characteristics of standard stereoscopes have been improved during the past few years, there is a definite need for an improved instrument for use on this Project. I concur with this requirement, and the proposal as stated, and recommend procurement action be initiated.

Colonel USAF
Director of Operations

Encl:

- 1 - Memo from A. C. Lundahl, 23 April 1956
- 2 - Reed Research Proposal
- 3 - Letter from [] 10 Feb 56
- 4 - Letter of [] 21 March 56
- 5 - Sketches of cost figures - Perkin Elmer

RSC:bm

- 1 & 2 - Addressee
- 3 - Ops subj
- 4 - Ops chron
- 5 - Admin chron